United Nations A/55/133–S/2000/682

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
12 July 2000

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session
Items 20 (b) and (d), 33, 46, 74 (b) and (e), 96, 97, 102, 108, 116, 165 and 166 of the provisional agenda*

Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions; emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan

Culture of peace

The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

* A/55/150.

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Letter dated 11 July 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit the text of the Dushanbe Declaration of the Heads of State of the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan, signed on 5 July 2000 (see annex), as well as the text of the joint communiqué on the results of the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan, held on 4 July 2000, within the framework of the meeting of the heads of State, "Shanghai Five" (see appendix).

We should be grateful if you would have this letter, its annex and appendix circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 20 (b) and (d), 33, 46, 74 (b) and (e), 96, 97, 102, 108, 116, 165 and 166 of the provisional agenda, as well as of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Wang** Yingfan
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the
People's Republic of China to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Madina B. **Jarbussynova**
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Elmira **Ibraimova**
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the
Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Sergey V. **Lavrov**
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the
Russian Federation to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Rashid **Alimov**
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Tajikistan to the United Nations

Annex to the letter dated 11 July 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Dushanbe Declaration of the Heads of State of the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan

[Original: Chinese and Russian]

The People's Republic of China, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan, hereinafter referred to as the Parties,

Convinced that the further development of cooperation and close interaction within the framework of the Shanghai Five on the basis of friendship and good-neighbourliness is in keeping with the basic interests of the peoples of the five countries and with current trends towards the establishment of a multipolar world and the creation of a new, just and rational international political and economic order;

Guided by the common desire of the five countries to maintain the relations of friendship that have been passed down from generation to generation, and to address all issues through consultation in a spirit of mutual understanding, equality and mutual advantage;

Affirming their commitment to the spirit and objectives of the documents signed at all meetings of the Five and to all the bilateral treaties and agreements concluded among them;

Having discussed, in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and constructiveness, questions of the status of and prospects for multilateral cooperation in areas of common interest,

Declare the following:

1. The Parties express their profound satisfaction at the development of relations among the States members of the Shanghai Five and consider that substantial results have been achieved in strengthening mutual trust and cooperation, and that the Five are playing an increasingly important and active role in maintaining security and stability in the region and are contributing to the joint development of the States members of the Five.

The Parties shall endeavour to transform the Shanghai Five into a regional structure for multilateral cooperation in various fields.

2. The Parties confirm their interest in making Central Asia a zone of peace and good-neighbourliness, stability and equitable international cooperation, and oppose any conflicts, threats or outside interference that might complicate the situation in the region. On that basis, and bearing in mind the geopolitical situation that is evolving in and around the region, the Parties are determined to deepen their interaction in the political, diplomatic, trade and economic, military, technical and other fields in order to strengthen regional security and stability.

3. The Parties note that the agreements concluded by the five countries on the issues of border settlement and conference-building in the military field embody a new concept of security based on mutual trust, equality and cooperation, further strengthen mutual understanding and good-neighbourliness and make a constructive contribution to ensuring stability on a broad regional basis.

They express their firm commitment to the rigorous implementation of all the provisions of the agreements between the five States on confidence-building in the military field and mutual reduction of armed forces in the border area, signed in Shanghai and Moscow in 1996 and 1997, respectively. The agreements established, for the first time, a zone of confidence and transparency, and predictability and the verifiability of military activity along the over 7,000-kilometre-long border zone.

The Parties note with satisfaction the successful start made by the Joint Monitoring Group of the Five in organizing and coordinating inspection work, and consider it essential to make use of the Group's potential also for the consideration of issues related to confidence-building in the military field. They are in favour of taking more active measures in that area, in particular by conducting joint exercises and training with a view to preventing hazardous military activity, exchanging experience gained from cooperation in peacekeeping operations and jointly holding conferences, seminars, symposia and sporting events.

4. The Parties consider that, in order to deepen mutual confidence and friendly cooperation among the five States in the military field and to consolidate their joint efforts to maintain peace and stability in the region, it is desirable to hold meetings of the Ministers of Defence and consultations among the defence structures of the States members of the Shanghai Five.

5. The Parties confirm their resolve jointly to combat international terrorism, religious extremism and national separatism, which are the main threat to regional security, stability and development, as well as criminal activity such as illicit trafficking in arms and narcotic drugs and illegal migration. To this end, the five States shall, in the near future, draw up an appropriate multilateral programme, conclude the requisite multilateral treaties and agreements on cooperation, hold regular meetings of the heads of the law-enforcement, border and customs agencies and special services of the five countries and, taking into consideration developments in the situation, conduct, within the framework of the Five, training in methods of combating terrorism and violence.

The Parties express their resolve to prevent the use of the territories of their States for the organization of activities that are detrimental to the sovereignty, security and public order of any of the five States.

The Parties express their satisfaction at the level of development of cooperation among the law-enforcement agencies and special services of the five countries within the framework of the Bishkek Group, support Kyrgyzstan's initiative to create a regional anti-terrorist structure with headquarters in Bishkek, and mandate the competent agencies of their own countries to begin negotiations with a view to preparing specific proposals and to continue consultations on this matter.

6. The Parties, firmly upholding the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and also affirming the right of every State to choose its own path of political, economic and social development in accordance with its actual conditions,

are opposed to interference in the internal affairs of other States, including interference under the pretext of "humanitarian intervention" and "protection of human rights", and support each other's efforts to defend the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and social stability of the five States.

The Parties, affirming their commitment to the principle of respect for human rights, believe that, in the application of that principle, consideration must be given to the historically established characteristics of each State, and stress that the application of this principle must not conflict with other universally recognized principles of international law.

The Parties declare their support for the aspirations and efforts of the People's Republic of China to preserve the unity of the country in accordance with the "one China" principle.

The Parties express their support for the position of the Russian Federation concerning the resolution of the situation in the Chechen Republic.

7. The Parties, bearing in mind the political and other challenges facing the modern world, including attempts to alter the established practice for resolving international and regional problems, emphasize that they will steadfastly promote the strengthening of the role of the United Nations as the sole universal mechanism for maintaining international peace and stability. They are opposed to any use or threat of military force in international relations that is not sanctioned by the Security Council, as well as attempts by any State or group of States, acting in its own interests, to monopolize decision-making on global and regional issues.

8. The Parties emphasize the absolute necessity of maintaining and strictly complying with the 1972 Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems, which prohibits the creation by individual countries of anti-missile systems to defend their territories. That Treaty is a cornerstone of strategic stability and constitutes the basis for the further reduction of strategic offensive weapons.

The Parties consider that the deployment of closed bloc-based anti-ballistic missile defence systems in the theatre of operations in the Asia and Pacific region may upset stability and security in the region and bring about an escalation of the arms race, and express their support for the position of China, which opposes plans to include Taiwan in the anti-ballistic missile defence system in the theatre of operations by any State in whatever form.

9. The Parties declare that, having stood the test of time, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the thirtieth anniversary of which is being observed this year, has proved to be an effective instrument for curbing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and has reduced the risk of a nuclear conflict, and are in favour of making the Treaty truly universal in scope.

10. The Parties support the initiative of Uzbekistan on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Central Asian region and consider that a treaty on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone must comply with the established principles and parameters for such instruments.

11. The Parties express their deep concern at the continuing military and political confrontation in Afghanistan, which poses a serious threat to regional and international security.

The Parties support the efforts of the United Nations and its leading role in achieving a political settlement of the Afghan conflict, and call on all the opposing forces to show restraint and to return in the near future to peaceful negotiations, taking into account the interests of all groups and strata of Afghan society.

12. The Parties welcome the conclusion of the process of peaceful settlement and the establishment of national concord in Tajikistan, support the policy adopted by the leaders of Tajikistan to address the tasks of post-conflict reconstruction and economic recovery and to develop democratic institutions and carry out economic and social reforms, and call upon the international community to provide the necessary support for the development of Tajikistan.

13. The Parties consider the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia as a positive process on the Asian continent which, together with the existing structures and mechanisms in Asia, provide further opportunities for political dialogue on issues of regional security, confidence-building and the development of multilateral cooperation.

14. The Parties, on the basis of the principles of equality and mutually advantageous cooperation, will use every means to encourage the establishment and development of a trade and economic partnership within the framework of the Five, including matters relating to the improvement of the investment climate and the business environment in their countries, the granting of favourable terms for the conduct of normal business activities by citizens and enterprises of the other countries of the Five and the settlement of disputes that arise in the course of their cooperation.

The Parties consider that the implementation of Kazakhstan's initiative to hold a meeting of the heads of Government of the five countries is fully in keeping with those objectives, and they support the establishment, as necessary, by the appropriate authorities of the five States, of joint expert groups to carry out the necessary preparatory work.

The Parties support the interest of the People's Republic of China in the active participation of the Russian Federation and the Central Asian countries in the development of China's western regions.

The Parties consider that the effective utilization of the energy potential of the countries of the Shanghai Five and the strengthening of regional cooperation in the field of energy on the basis of mutual advantage are an important factor in ensuring stability and development in the region and will enable all the States of the Shanghai Five to achieve a new level of multilateral cooperation.

15. The Parties shall encourage the development of cooperation among the member countries of the Five in the field of culture, including the joint organization of various festivals, exhibitions and tours, and consider it desirable to hold meetings, at an appropriate time, of the Ministers of Culture of the member countries of the Five.

16. The Parties are strongly committed to the protection of the environment, including the utilization of water resources in the region, and will cooperate in this field on a bilateral and multilateral basis.

17. The Parties attach great importance to the development of cooperation among the foreign policy organs of the States of the Five and consider it desirable to hold

annual meetings of Ministers for Foreign Affairs to consider the development of cooperation among the five countries in all fields and to discuss international and regional problems and develop joint approaches to them.

18. In order to strengthen the coordinating principle and increase efficiency in the study of questions relating to cooperation within the framework of the Five, the Parties shall provide every kind of assistance to the national coordinators appointed in each country of the Five, and support the establishment of the Council of National Coordinators and the adoption of an appropriate five-party regulatory instrument aimed at improving the effectiveness of the Council's work.

19. The Parties confirm that the interaction among the five countries is not directed against other States and is open in nature. They welcome the participation, at the inter-State and other levels, of other interested countries in specific cooperation programmes and projects of the Five.

20. Mr. Jiang Zemin, President of China, Mr. Nursultan Nazarbaev, President of Kazakhstan, Mr. Askar Akayev, President of Kyrgyzstan, Mr. Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation and Mr. Emomali Rakhmonov, President of Tajikistan, welcome the participation in the summit of the Shanghai Five of Mr. Islam Karimov, President of Uzbekistan.

(*Signed*) **Jiang** Zemin
President of the People's Republic of China

(*Signed*) N. A. **Nazarbaev**
President of the Republic of Kazakhstan

(*Signed*) A. A. **Akayev**
President of the Kyrgyz Republic

(*Signed*) V. V. **Putin**
President of the Russian Federation

(*Signed*) E. S. **Rakhmonov**
President of the Republic of Tajikistan

Dushanbe, 5 July 2000

Appendix to the letter dated 11 July 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint Communiqué on the results of the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan

[Original: Chinese and Russian]

The first meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan was held on 4 July 2000 in Dushanbe in the context of the meeting of heads of State of the Shanghai Five.

The meeting took place in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and constructiveness.

The Ministers considered the progress achieved in developing interaction among the States of the Shanghai Five since the Bishkek Summit, held in August 1999, and noted with satisfaction the greater degree of mutual trust in the military field in the border areas of the countries of the Five, the consistent settlement of border issues inherited from the past, the deepening of cooperation in the political field and the sphere of security, the broadening of mutual understanding in regional and international matters, and the further development of trade and mutually advantageous economic cooperation.

The establishment and development of mechanisms within the framework of the Shanghai Five reflect the wish of the peoples of the five States always to maintain with each other relations of good-neighbourliness, partnership and friendship and embody a new kind of international relations — transcending blocs, open, not directed against third States and based on equitable cooperation, mutual trust and mutual advantage. This is enriching current diplomatic practice and regional cooperation, playing an important role in maintaining security and stability in the region and contributing to the development in the world of the trend towards multipolarity and the establishment of a just and rational international order.

The Ministers noted that these elements are reflected in the summit's draft final document, the Dushanbe Declaration which, at the same time, is oriented towards the further strengthening and development of interaction and sets out specific tasks in that area and practical ways of implementing them.

The Ministers consider that, in order to enhance the effectiveness of meetings of the leaders of the countries of the Shanghai Five and the coordination of cooperation on international and regional matters, it is necessary to continue to expand such cooperation and improve mechanisms for interaction within the framework of the Shanghai Five.

To this end, the Ministers agreed to hold meetings at least once a year alternately in each of the five States in order to conduct exchanges of views on pressing issues relating to the situation in the world and the region, and to hold

consultations of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the countries of the Five on subjects of common interest.

The Ministers approved the establishment of the Council of National Coordinators to consider questions relating to cooperation within the framework of the Shanghai Five. The Council will operate on the basis of the regulations that it will draw up and approve. The Ministers expressed support for conferring on the Council, in due course, the prerogatives of a working body of the Shanghai Five, following the conclusion for that purpose of an appropriate agreement among the five countries.

The Ministers believe that the development of economic cooperation among the five States is not only a necessary response on their part to the situation that is evolving as a result of economic globalization but also a key element in strengthening regional security and stability and an important factor in accelerating the economic and social development of their States. The ministries of foreign affairs of the five States will provide every kind of assistance and create favourable conditions for the strengthening of multilateral and bilateral trade and economic cooperation among the countries of the Five.

The Ministers welcome the final settlement of the border issues between China and Kazakhstan and China and Kyrgyzstan. They note that China and the Russian Federation and China and Tajikistan will continue negotiations, based on the treaties relating to the present border, in accordance with the generally accepted norms of international law, through consultations conducted on the basis of equality, and in a spirit of mutual understanding and reciprocal concessions with a view to achieving a speedy and comprehensive settlement of outstanding border issues. They expressed confidence that the world's longest peaceful land border, the border between China and Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan, would become a zone of friendship, closely linking the peoples of those countries.

The Ministers, deeply concerned at the rise of international terrorism, religious extremism and national separatism, believe that these forces are the main threat to security and stability in the region, and consider it essential to strengthen cooperation in this area, both on a bilateral basis and through multilateral cooperation, including the signing by the States of the Five of appropriate treaties and agreements.

The Ministers value highly the contribution of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to the preservation of stability in Central Asia and confirm their support for the initiatives and efforts by those countries to strengthen regional and global security, including the efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone and to reinforce confidence-building in Asia. The Ministers oppose activities by any external forces that might complicate or aggravate the situation in the region.

The Ministers welcome the successful completion of an inter-Tajik settlement and the establishment of national accord in Tajikistan and support the efforts of the Government and people of Tajikistan to protect its State independence and sovereignty and ensure the steady development of the national economy in the post-conflict period.

The Ministers express concern at signs of an increase in hegemonism and the use of force to resolve conflict situations, at the outbreak of local wars and regional conflicts and at the mounting challenges facing humanity.

The Ministers emphasize that, in the current situation, strict compliance with the fundamental purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law and the international community's adherence to the five principles of peaceful coexistence are an important basis for the maintenance of peace and stability throughout the world and the realization of universal development and human well-being. The Ministers note that the Russian Federation and China, as permanent members of the Security Council of the United Nations, play an important role in maintaining peace and security throughout the world.

The Ministers consider that, despite the current difficulties, the world is continuing to develop towards multipolarity. The countries of the Five will strengthen interaction on questions of strategy in international affairs and will oppose any form of "neo-interventionism". The Ministers express their determination to oppose any attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign States using human rights or humanitarian concerns as pretexts, and underscore that the issue of the universality of human rights must be seen in the context of the actual conditions in the regions or countries concerned.

The Ministers confirm their support for General Assembly resolution 54/54 A of 1999, entitled "Preservation of and compliance with the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems", emphasize that this Treaty requires comprehensive and strict compliance, and oppose any attempts to violate the Treaty. The parties note that the development by closed bloc-based anti-ballistic missile systems in the theatre of operations in the Asia and Pacific region is undermining peace and stability in the region.

The Ministers express concern at the situation in Afghanistan and call upon the belligerent parties, in the best interests of the people and the State, to sit down at the negotiating table, at the earliest opportunity, with a view to achieving national reconciliation. They oppose the use of Afghanistan and its territory by any external forces to carry out activities that pose a threat to security in the region.

The Ministers declare their support for the positions of principle of China on the issue of Taiwan, and of the Russian Federation on the resolution of the situation in the Chechen Republic.

The Ministers note that interaction within the framework of the Shanghai Five transcends blocs, is neither isolationist nor directed against third countries and makes a substantial contribution to protecting security and stability in the region.

The Ministers welcomed the participation in the Dushanbe meeting of a representative from Uzbekistan.

(*Signed*) **Tang** Jiaxuan
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China

(*Signed*) E. A. **Idrissov**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan

(*Signed*) M.I. **Imanaliev**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan

(*Signed*) I. S. **Ivanov**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

(*Signed*) T. N. **Nazarov**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan

Dushanbe, 4 July 2000